

November Phenology

a reflective look at 2009

by Jim Gilbert



1 Flocks of Tundra Swans flew over Lake Waconia, headed SE. A few Eastern Chipmunks are seen above ground, but the majority have begun hibernating in their underground burrows. Both White-throated and Fox Sparrows forage beneath feeders.

2 Huge rafts of American Coots persist on some Twin Cities area lakes. Lingering fall foliage colors such as golden-yellows on some paper birches, sugar maples and weeping willows are enjoyed. As of today, 56% of Minnesota's soybean crop has been harvested (96% is normal), and just 12% of the field corn has been harvested (70% is normal).

7 "Indian Summer" day with a high of 64 degrees (45 is normal). Painted turtles are sunning. Apple growers are picking Haralson, Regent and Fireside.

10 Weeping willows at fall color peak with their golden-yellow leaves. Superior National at Lutsen still open for golfing.

14 This is the average date for the top layer of soil to freeze. Muskrats are building dome-shaped homes. A late Great Blue Heron was seen at Lake Minnetonka. First ski area opened for the season. Wild Mountain at Taylors Falls.

15 Several thousand Franklin's Gulls come each evening to roost on Lake Waconia.

19 Fresh-cut pines, spruces and firs for the holidays are now on retail lots. This is the average date for permanent snow cover in the Twin Cities.

20 Thousands of Tundra Swans have gathered on the Mississippi River about 3 miles south of Brownsville.

22 Last open day this year for Island View Golf Course in Waconia. People give their lawns a final mow before snow accumulates. The number of Dark-eyed Juncos at feeding stations has increased.

23 Roughly 8,620 Buffleheads are counted on Pond 9 of the Mississippi River south of LaCrosse; very likely a world record count for this species.

29 About a dozen species of birds including Dark-eyed Juncos, Blue Jays, Northern Cardinals and Black-capped Chickadees come to Twin Cities area feeders. Pine Siskins are plentiful in Northeast Minnesota.

30 High of 44 degrees F. Mosses are still a lush green as are many lawns. It's the last night that Franklin's Gulls spend the night on Lake Waconia. As of now, 78% of Minnesota's corn crop has been harvested; normal is 98%.



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